

District Councillor Report: Elmswell Parish Council

May 2024

Free Compost events	<p>To coincide with International Compost Awareness Week 5th to 11th May, the district council held a series of compost giveaways across the district to support residents with a garden, allotment, or window box to grow their own plants.</p> <p>There is an additional event on June 23rd 7am to 11.45am at Meadlands social club, Needham Road, Stowmarket, when loose compost will be given out. Residents to bring their own shovels, plus up to two bags per car, and can help themselves on a first come, first served basis. More information about composting can be found at https://getcomposting.com and https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk.</p>
Tenant satisfaction	<p>The results from a recent tenant satisfaction survey are not very promising with many tenants rating the service from the Council as poor. A programme of activities is being prepared, including a better system for booking appointments with the service team.</p>
Housing	<p>The Council was successful in gaining an £800k grant for decarbonising council housing stock. This will assist ongoing work such as improving insulation and replacing oil and older gas boilers with air source heat pumps.</p> <p>The Housing Solutions team has been shortlisted as Team of the Year in Housing Heros awards, for their work in supporting people out of homelessness/in need of emergency housing.</p>
Locality Budgets 2024/25	<p>The next round of locality grants has had a soft launch. The application process is now open, so we would welcome applications from any community group. Do get in touch with either of us to discuss options. Information and application forms are available on the website. https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/web/mid-suffolk/w/locality-awards</p>
Car park behind Woolpit Health Centre	<p>A litter bin and a dog bin are now in place and emptied weekly, alongside monthly mechanical sweeping. Plans for soft landscaping are also in hand – we are asking for clarification as to when this work will be completed.</p> <p>The Health Centre’s delays in engaging with MSDC to take over the lease have gone on long enough and need resolution. We remain in discussion with Mid Suffolk senior officers to ensure that the carpark will be properly managed, flooding issues resolved, and EV charging points up and running without further delay and will keep the parish council updated.</p>
Elmswell to Woolpit footpath	<p>The delays in securing the long-awaited pedestrian and cycle path between Elmswell and Woolpit are very disappointing. However, work to achieve this is ongoing, and the section of path due to be completed by Goldstar from their entrance onto Rectory Lane, Woolpit is now almost complete. We have asked if the path where it currently enters Rectory Lane can be extended further down onto the layby, due to safety concerns about vehicles driving into and out of the cricket club.</p>
Councillor drop-in sessions	<p>Jen and Sarah hold monthly drop-in sessions, alternating between Woolpit Teacups and Wesley Café in Elmswell. The next two sessions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 21st May 10-12 Wesley Café.• Thursday 20th June 10-12 Teacups Café.

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